

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-38 (Canceled)

39. (Original) A method of removing an obstruction from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate obstruction removing element, the element being naturally biased toward an expanded shape, the expanded shape forming a plurality of coils;

positioning the element in a collapsed position, wherein at least one strand also extends along the elongate obstruction removing element;

advancing the element into an obstruction while holding the element in the collapsed configuration;

releasing the element so that the element naturally expands toward the expanded shape, wherein the at least one strand extends between the plurality of coils;

engaging an obstruction with the element; and

removing the element thereby removing the obstruction.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the element having a free end.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with the free end being at the distal most part of the element.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the engaging step is carried out by pulling the element proximally to engage and dislodge the obstruction.

43. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with a plurality of strands coupled to the element; and

the expanding step is carried out with the plurality of strands extending between the plurality of coils.

44. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with the strand being coupled to the element at a proximal location and a distal location, the proximal and distal locations being located at proximal and distal ends of the plurality of coils.

Claims 45-50 Canceled